to take care of the improper use of the telecommunication system by sending malicious and obscene telecommunications.

Permission for use of Cordless Phones of Long Range in India

*553. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Communications India 1996' exhibition was held in Delhi in December, 1996; if so, the purpose thereof and the details of equipments displayed;

(b) whether the cordless phones of the range of 500 meters to 100 Kms. were displayed thereat and distributers were sought therefor in India;

(c) if so, whether phones of that range are permitted to be used in India; if not, the reasons for allowing display thereof;

(d) the permissible range limit for cordless phones in the country; and

(e) whether Government propose to allow use of long range cordless phones in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. It was organised by a private organisation named "Exhibition India". According to the organisers, the purpose of the exhibition was for display and demonstration of equipments and technology for the communications industry. The equipment displayed included telephone Data Radio Communications, telex, teletext, video networking, etc.

(b) to (e) At present, permissible range for cordless phones as attachment to Department of Telecommunications (DOT) telephones is 100 meters. No equipment vendor has offered cordless telephone in the range of 500 meters to 100 Kms. to Department of Telecom for testing.

Orissa Spinning Mills on the verge of closure

*554. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of spinning mills in Orissa are on the verge of closure; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Central Government to safeguard the interests of workers of these spinning mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In the case of Orissa, as on 31.1.97, 5 mills were registered with BIFR as sick. BIFR has not recommended winding up of any mill. However, one mill is temporarily closed due to financial problems.

Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for revival of mills.

Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure.

Evaluation of Dam Projects by World Bank

*555. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation has been conducted of the ongoing large dam projects of our country by Banker's Operations Evaluation Department of World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details of all such projects including Upper Indrawati Project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Unified Command to Combat the insurgents in the North-East Region

*556. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his recent visit to the North-East Region, he had declared a unified command to combat insurgents in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, whether the command is constituted on a State-wise or regional basis; and

(c) by when it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a 3-tier coordinating mechanism for counter insurgency operations, part of which is called a Unified Headquarters, exists for Assam with effect from January 20, 1997.

Flaws in Licence Fee structures of Telecom Sector

*557. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out any flaws in the Licence Fee structure of the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Some individuals have been airing their views in various forums by stating that on account of high cost of operations including high licence fee, the projects of Basic Telephone Service are likely to be non-prfitable. The Licence fee for Basic Services has been quoted by the bidders themselves and has not been fixed by the Government. For other Value Added Services, no such views are known to have been expressed.

Bridge on river Ganges connecting Anupshahar in District Bulandshahr (U.P.)

*558. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation for construction of a bridge over river Ganges connecting Anupshahar in district Bulandshahr and border of district Badayun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the flyover will ease the movement of people of many districts particularly, Bulandshahr, Badayun, Moradabad, etc. and enhance the economy of these districts as well; and

(d) if so, the decision Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) A representation for construction of said bridge was received by the U.P. Govt, from Dlstt. Secretary, Rabta Committee, U.P. Upper Kot, Bulandshahar vide his letter dated 31.3.94

(c) The State Govt, of Uttar Pradesh is of the view that it will ease the movement of people.

(d) The Central Govt, is primarily responsible for the development of National Highways, The proposal for the construction of a major bridge over Ganga near Anupshahar being not on a National Highway, its construction is the responsibility of the State Govt, of Uttar Pradesh.

The State Govt, of Uttar Pradesh have